

Chandler-Tullamore Sister Cities

Representing the Sister Cities of Chandler, Arizona and Tullamore, Ireland

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2013 Annual Report - Chandler-Tullamore Sister Cities (CTSC)

- Twenty students and 2 faculty members from Sacred Heart High School in Tullamore, Ireland visited Chandler in March 2013. The students were paired with students from Seton Catholic Preparatory High School for the CTSC Pioneer Student Ambassador program. Activities were planned, including a bus trip to the Grand Canyon, participation in the St. Patrick's Parade in Phoenix, a ride on the Phoenix Metro Light Rail, visit to the Arizona Science Museum, joining in several fundraisers for the program, and attending school and classroom activities.
- Three members of the Tullamore Town Council, one member of their Sister City committee, and 3 business persons also visited Chandler with the student delegation. Meetings and receptions were held with Chandler's Mayor and Council, the Chandler Chamber, and the CTSC Board. An Economic Development tour was given, plus introductions to local businesses. Several business transactions resulted.
- CTSC's first Student Ambassador exchange had 11 students from Chandler travel to Tullamore, Ireland, with the CTSC Education Chair and the President of CTSC. A wonderful and history/culture-filled itinerary was planned by the Tullamore committee and students. Students used email, facebook and skype to connect before and after the exchanges. One of the Chandler students traveled to Tullamore to stay with her "Irish family" at Christmas.
- The Annual Chandler-Tullamore Sister Cities' Art & Author Showcase received entries for essays, poetry, and art works. The CTSC First Place Poetry winner, a student from Hamilton High School, was recognized as a the Grand Prize Winner for Poetry in the International Competition, and she was awarded a \$1,000 cash prize. Our First Place Art Winner, a student from Seton Catholic Preparatory High School, was recognized as one of the 10 Art Finalists in the SCI competition. Both works were displayed at the Annual SCI Conference in San Antonio, TX, and were included on the National Tour around the United States.

All student entrants were invited to a City of Chandler's Council Meeting, and were recognized publicly by the Mayor and Council for their literary and art works on behalf of the 2013 CTSC Art & Author Showcase; the event was televised on the local City channel.

CTSC was invited to host the SCI Showcase exhibit for a month, which included the two pieces from the CTSC Showcase. A \$2,000 grant was received to help underwrite the exhibit and 2014 Showcase.

- CTSC Board member and native of Tullamore, Ireland, Paul McGowan returned home for a week visit; he met with the townspeople and promoted the twinning at several events.
- CTSC hosted the Annual Arizona Sister Cities Conference in October, with "Economic Development" as the theme. The opening night reception was held at the Basha Art Gallery. A \$500 grant and sponsorships helped underwrite the conference.
- CTSC fundraising efforts resulted in raising enough monies to underwrite the 11 students' airfares at \$1,000 each; transportation to and from Dublin Airport; activities related to the Tullamore visit in March. Events included a major concert, the CTSC Southwest Tea, several Pub Quizzes, and other smaller events.

Respectfully submitted,

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Chandler-Tullamore Sister Cities is in a 501(c)3 non-profit corporation, with the goal to "cultivate and maintain a strong reciprocal relationship between the Cities of Chandler, Arizona and Tullamore, Ireland, and where we encourage cultural understanding, community involvement, economic development, and educational exchanges."